

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



**FISCAL MEMORANDUM**

**SB 390 – HB 749**

March 7, 2011

**SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (004595):** Authorizes a primary care provider to, upon receiving information regarding a prescribing psychologist's prescriptive treatment plan or changing an existing treatment plan, overrule the prescribing psychologist if an agreement on the patient's plan is not reached. Prohibits the prescribing psychologist from writing prescriptions to minors until a course of non-pharmacological treatment has been demonstrated to be clinically insufficient or ineffective. Requires a minimum of five visits prior to prescribing to minors. Requires regular periodic medication checks in minimum intervals of six months if a patient successfully completes a course of psychotherapy and continued medication is clinically indicated.

**FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:**

NOT SIGNIFICANT

**FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:**

**Unchanged from the original fiscal note.**

Assumptions applied to amendment:

- Currently, licensed psychologists do not have prescription authority.
- The Board of Examiners in Psychology will develop applications, modify the current regulatory board computer system, evaluate continuing education requirements, and consider additional complaints as a result of the expanded scope of practice.
- Current Department of Health staff can perform computer modifications and assist the Board with applications and evaluations. Any costs incurred will be not significant and can be accommodated within existing resources without an increased appropriation or a reduced reversion.
- Authorizing primary care providers to overrule prescribing psychologists, and requiring a minimum of five visits and a demonstration of non-pharmacological treatment insufficiency or ineffectiveness prior to prescribing to minors will not result in a significant regulatory or fiscal impact to the Board.
- Any rule-making can be accomplished during regularly scheduled Board meetings and will not result in a significant increase in state expenditures.

- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-3-1011, all health-related boards are required to be self-supporting over a two-year period. As of June 2010, the Board had a balance of \$291,214.

**CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James W. White, Executive Director

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